ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
LIBRARY

1968

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30042239

# ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L  R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

IAN G.P. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Area Health Office,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

J.M. OLIVER, M.A.P.H.I.,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,
Rothbury Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
ROTHBURY.

Tel: Rothbury 381

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council

Vital Statistics These are similar to recent years. There were 70 births with equal numbers of males and females. The crude birth rate was 13.5 live births per thousand population and the adjusted rate was 15.9 per thousand, the area comparability factor for births being 1.18. These rates compare with ones of 14.9 and 17.5 in the District in 1967 and of 16.9 in England and Wales in 1968.

Total deaths numbered 74, the same number as in 1967. The crude death rate was 14.2 per thousand population and the adjusted rate 11.9 per thousand, the area comparability factor for deaths being 0.84. These rates compare with ones of 14.1 and 12.0 respectively in the District in 1967 and of 11.9 in England and Wales in 1968. Sixty six of the deaths occurred in persons aged over 65, and 43 in persons aged over 75 years of age. Malignant diseases accounted for 19 deaths and heart and vascular conditions for a further 37 deaths.

The causes of death are shown in the table. These are recorded under the Abbreviated List of 50 causes from the International Classification of Diseases. In 1968 this list replaced the Abridged List of 36 causes. This change has meant that more conditions are specifically listed as opposed to being placed under general headings.

There was one infant death giving an infant mortality rate of 14.3 per thousand live births compared with the national rate of 18 per thousand. There were no maternal deaths.

Immunisation The statistics show the number of children in the North 2 Area who were vaccinated and immunised during the year. The percentages of primary immunisations of infants were considerably lower than in 1967. It seems certain that this was only an apparent fall in the numbers carried out and one which will be rectified in future years. The reason for this fall is that in the summer the schedule for immunisation was altered and whereas previously many infants had completed the course by 6 months of age under the new schedule primary courses are not completed until 1 year of age.

Vaccination against measles with one dose of live attenuated vaccine commenced nationally. Initially it was made available for children aged 4 to 7 years, subsequently for all other children under 16 years, and to be routinely included in the immunisation programme in the second year of life.

Infectious Diseases Very few infectious diseases were notified as will be seen from the table.

Infective hepatitis was made notifiable in June and two cases were notified before the end of the year.

There were no new cases of tuberculosis.

Two cases of food poisoning were notified. The first case occurred in an infant infected with Salmonella typhimurium. The father, a farmworker, was working with ill, scouring calves at the time and both he and another child also had symptoms although no bacteriological specimens were examined. There is a definite risk of human infection from livestock or untreated milk which is typified by this case. The infection is usually only significant at the extremes of life and in these cases could have been serious as both children were young and also suffered from congenital disabilities. On twelve other farms the Divisional Veterinary Officer gave information of bovine infections with Salmonella - 4 S. typhimuruim and 2 S. dublin. Follow-up of these showed that there was no milk retailed and no associated persons had suffered from any symptoms.

The second case of food poisoning was of a different type and occurred at the outset of an outbreak of poisoning caused by eating mussels gathered on the north Northumberland coast. Symptoms could be serious as the toxin ingested acted by causing paralysis of the central nervous system. The person concerned had gathered the mussels for personal use.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

## GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,178 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 20.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,200 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

## VITAL STATISTICS

| Live Births | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 34 | 33 | 67 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 35 | 35 | 70 |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population | | | 13.5 |
| Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor | | | 15.9 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | | | 4.5 |
| **Still Births** | | | |
| Legitimate | - | - | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | - |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births | | | - |
| Total live and still births | | | 70 |
| **Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)** | | | |
| Legitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Infant Mortality Rate** | | | |
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | | | 14.3 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births | | | 13.5 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | | | - |
| **Neo-natal Mortality Rate** | | | |
| Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births | | | - |
| **Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate** | | | |
| Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births | | | - |
| **Perinatal Mortality Rate** | | | |
| Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births | | | - |

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of deaths | - |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | - |

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | 32 | 42 | 74 |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population | | | 14.2 |
| Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor | | | 11.9 |

CAUSES OF DEATH

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Malignant Neoplasm - Breast | - | 6 | 6 |
| Leukaemia | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc, | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms | - | 1 | 1 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Anaemias | - | 1 | 1 |
| Hypertensive Diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| Other forms of Heart Disease | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Influenza | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | 3 | - | 3 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other Diseases, Genito-urinary System | 1 | - | 1 |
| Totals | 32 | 42 | 74 |

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 and 1949-1968

| Year | Number of Infant Deaths | Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births | Infant Mortality England and Wales |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1919 | 2 | 26.0 | 89 |
| 1920 | 8 | 80.1 | 80 |
| 1921 | 6 | 60.0 | 83 |
| 1922 | 1 | 12.0 | 77 |
| 1923 | 2 | 24.0 | 69 |
| 1924 | 2 | 25.0 | 75 |
| 1925 | 1 | 12.2 | 75 |
| 1926 | 3 | 33.3 | 70 |
| 1927 | 6 | 95.0 | 69 |
| 1928 | 7 | 96.0 | 65 |
| 1929 | - | - | 74 |
| 1930 | 3 | 62.5 | 60 |
| 1931 | 1 | 12.6 | 66 |
| 1932 | 3 | 60.0 | 65 |
| 1933 | 1 | 16.1 | 64 |
| 1934 | 1 | 12.8 | 59 |
| 1935 | 7 | 111.0 | 57 |
| 1936 | 1 | 14.1 | 59 |
| 1937 | 1 | 12.5 | 58 |
| 1938 | - | - | 53 |
| 1949 | 4 | 45.9 | 32 |
| 1950 | 2 | 26.6 | 30 |
| 1951 | 2 | 23.2 | 30 |
| 1952 | - | - | 28 |
| 1953 | 1 | 9.5 | 27 |
| 1954 | - | - | 25 |
| 1955 | 3 | 42.2 | 24.9 |
| 1956 | 1 | 11.4 | 24.9 |
| 1957 | 1 | 12.5 | 23.1 |
| 1958 | - | - | 22.5 |
| 1959 | 2 | 20.2 | 20.7 |
| 1960 | - | - | 21.7 |
| 1961 | 3 | 36.6 | 21.4 |
| 1962 | - | - | 21.4 |
| 1963 | - | - | 20.9 |
| 1964 | - | - | 20.9 |
| 1965 | 4 | 59.7 | 21 |
| 1966 | - | - | 19 |
| 1967 | 1 | 12.9 | 18.3 |
| 1968 | 1 | 14.3 | 18 |

## POPULATION

| YEAR | POPULATION | YEAR | POPULATION | YEAR | POPULATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1919 | 5.600 | 1933 | 5,627 | 1956 | 5,560 |
| 1920 | 5,507 | 1934 | 5,712 | 1957 | 5,520 |
| 1921 | 5,968 | 1935 | 5,692 | 1958 | 5,520 |
| 1922 | 5,963 | 1936 | 5,687 | 1959 | 5,510 |
| 1923 | 6,011 | 1937 | 5,629 | 1960 | 5,510 |
| 1924 | 6,093 | 1938 | 5,561 | 1961 | 5,330 |
| 1925 | 5,959 | 1939-48 | Not Published | 1962 | 5,330 |
| 1926 | 5,877 | 1949 | 5,680 | 1963 | 5,320 |
| 1927 | 5,877 | 1950 | 5,679 | 1964 | 5,370 |
| 1928 | 5,808 | 1951 | 5,507 | 1965 | 5,330 |
| 1929 | 5,888 | 1952 | 5,574 | 1966 | 5,290 |
| 1930 | 5,767 | 1953 | 5,567 | 1967 | 5,240 |
| 1931 | 5,615 | 1954 | 5,580 | 1968 | 5,200 |
| 1932 | 5,660 | 1955 | 5,560 | | |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| | |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 3 |
| Measles | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | 2 |
| Infective Hepatitis | 2 |

## TUBERCULOSIS

| Age Groups | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0-15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15-25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25-45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45-65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65+ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

## IMMUNISATION

## NORTH NO. 2 AREA

| Disease | Primary Immunisation | | | Reinforcing Doses | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 4 | 4-15 | Total | Under 4 | 4-15 | Total |
| Diphtheria | 300 | 47 | 347 | 348 | 441 | 789 |
| Whooping Cough | 297 | 47 | 344 | 211 | 118 | 329 |
| Tetanus | 301 | 48 | 349 | 354 | 522 | 876 |
| Polio | 331 | 92 | 423 | 353 | 366 | 719 |
| Measles | 175 | 329 | 516 | - | - | - |

| | Primary Vaccination | | | Revaccination | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under 5 | 5-15 | Total | Under 5 | 5-15 | Total |
| Smallpox | 250 | 22 | 272 | 3 | 15 | 18 |

There were 459 live births in the area during 1968 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria | - | 65% |
| Whooping Cough | - | 64% |
| Tetanus | - | 66% |
| Polio | - | 72% |
| Smallpox | - | 57% |

### B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

| | |
|---|---|
| Alnwick U.D. | 200 |
| Alnwick R.D. | 25 |
| Amble U.D. | 190 |
| Rothbury R.D. | 40 |
| Totals | 455 |

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## 1968

### WATER SUPPLIES

Since 1962, The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company have been responsible for the supply and distribution of water in this district.

Monthly samples are taken to ensure wholesome supplies.

The number of dwellinghouses supplied from public mains is set out in the following table. All are supplied direct to the houses.

| Parish | No. of Houses | Approx. Population |
|---|---|---|
| Alwinton | 17 | 59 |
| Brinkburn | 23 | 62 |
| Cartington | 3 | 9 |
| Elsdon | 49 | 134 |
| Harbottle | 45 | 122 |
| Hepple | 18 | 58 |
| Longframlington | 237 | 585 |
| Rothbury | 705 | 1859 |
| Thropton | 100 | 251 |
| Tosson | 17 | 42 |
| Whittingham | 91 | 261 |
| Totals | 1305 | 3442 |

### SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The disposal works at Longframlington, Whittingham, Wingates and the Council houses at Thropton continue to function satisfactorily. Entirely satisfactory results are difficult to maintain on the smaller works.

Work on the new Rothbury sewage works is proceeding very well, and should be operational in January 1969 some months before scheduled completion.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Consultations have taken place with the County Planning Officer, regarding the provision of access areas with conveniences within the National Park. It is expected that the first will be provided at Alwinton for the 1969 season.

Vandalism is always a problem, each generation of children making these buildings playgrounds, particularly the Rothbury Riverside convenience, probably because it is more isolated.

HOUSING

During the year, twelve old persons houses at Addycombe, Rothbury, were completed and occupied.

The number of Council Houses is 334.

Eight private houses were built during the year.

Twelve houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal action.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958.
Housing Purchase and Housing Act 1959.
Housing Act 1961.

A. Discretionary Grants

| | |
|---|---|
| Applications submitted during the year | 7 |
| Applications rejected | Nil |
| Applications approved | 7 |
| Approx. average grant per house 1968 | £297 |
| Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme | 373 |

B. Standard Grants

| | During the year | Total to date |
|---|---|---|
| Number of houses for which grants have been made | 2 | 35 |
| Number of houses provided with | | |
| a) Bath or shower | 1 | 25 |
| b) Wash hand basin | 1 | 26 |
| c) Hot water supply | 2 | 19 |
| d) Water closet | 2 | 34 |
| e) Food store | 1 | 19 |

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All properties in the district with the exception of some in the hills, have a weekly or fortnightly collection. The service operates smoothly. Two seven cubic yard vehicles and five men are employed.

CARAVANS

The sites at Whitton are now fully operational, making an ultimate development of 260 vans in this area.

There is a continuing demand for caravan sites in this area.

FOOD

The Council is able to maintain 100% inspection of meat, as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

Mr. D.J. MacPherson M.R.C.V.S. gives the necessary cover in my absence.

During the year, 1456 carcases were examined (319 beast, 136 pigs and 1001 sheep).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

| | Type of Property | |
|---|---|---|
| | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| 1. Number of properties in district | 2052 | 241 |
| 2. Total number of properties (including a) nearby premises inspected following notification | 22 | 3 |
| b) Number infested by (1) Rats | 22 | 3 |
| (2) Mice | - | - |
| 3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 19 | - |
| b) Number infested by (1) Rats | 9 | - |
| (2) Mice | - | - |

SEWERS

There were no sewers infested by rats during the year.

## FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948

### Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS For purpose of provisions as to health

| Premises | Number of Register | Number of | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority | 1 | - | - | - |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 19 | 9 | - | - |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers premises) | 2 | 3 | - | - |
| TOTALS | 22 | 12 | - | - |

2. DEFECTS FOUND None

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, brought into force during 1964, makes provisions for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these kind of premises.

### Registration and General Inspection

| Class or Premises | Number of premises registered during the year | Total number of registered premises at end of year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offices | - | 8 | 3 |
| Retail shops | - | 22 | 7 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses | - | 1 | - |
| Catering establishments open to public, canteens | - | 6 | 2 |
| Fuel storage depots | - | 1 | - |
| TOTALS | - | 38 | 12 |

## ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

| Class of Workplace | Number of persons employed |
|---|---|
| Offices | 20 |
| Retail shops | 72 |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses | 3 |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 24 |
| Canteens | - |
| Fuel storage depots | 1 |
| TOTAL | 120 |
| Total Males | 38 |
| Total Females | 82 |